

*Application No. 09/970458*  
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*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. S63.2R-9396-US02*

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A stent delivery system comprising:

a stent delivery catheter, the stent delivery catheter having a stent mounting region, the stent mounting region having an inflatable portion;  
a stent disposed about the stent mounting region, the stent having an unexpanded state and an expanded state;

a first stent retaining sleeve having first and second ends, the first end being attached to the stent delivery catheter adjacent to the stent mounting region and the stent in its unexpanded state and being longitudinally fixed relative to the stent mounting region, the first stent retaining sleeve disposed about and covering the entire stent in its unexpanded state, the first stent retaining sleeve being constructed and arranged to retract toward the attached first end when the stent is expanded, thereby shortening the distance between the first and second ends of the first stent retaining sleeve.

20. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is a single layer.

21. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein, when the first stent retaining sleeve is fully extended over the stent, the second end is longitudinally adjacent to the stent.

22. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is ribbed.

23. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is pleated.

24. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve has a plurality of openings.

25. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is comprised of at least two materials.

26. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 25, wherein the first stent retaining sleeve is comprised of alternating strips of the at least two materials.

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27. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, wherein the first end of the first stent retaining sleeve is attached proximally of the stent.
28. (New) The stent delivery system of claim 19, the first stent retaining sleeve having an inner surface, said inner surface being in contact with the stent, and an outer surface, said outer surface being uncovered and exposed, wherein a plurality of points on the outer surface are fixed relative to a plurality of corresponding points on the inner surface.